

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 OIC-04 /192 W

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R 251803Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4238

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 11019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, COMECON, EC, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEWS ON EC-COMECON CONTACTS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 5170; (B) LUXEMBOURG 667;

(C) EC BRUSSELS 5371

1. OFFICIALS OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION DEPARTMENT OF  
THE FCO HAVE DESCRIBED TO US THE CAUTIOUS AND AMBIVALENT

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BRITISH ATTITUDE TOWARD CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN

COMMUNITY AND COMECON.

2. ON THE ONE HAND, THE UK WELCOMES THE FADEYEV INITIATIVE AS A SIGN THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS BEGINNING TO RECOGNIZE THE EC AS A REALITY, AND BELIEVES THAT EC-COMECON CONTACTS COULD BE A WAY OF PROMOTING CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE UK DOES NOT WANT AN EC-COMECON DIALOGUE TO PREVENT THE SOVIET UNION'S EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES FROM ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH THE EC ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. OUR CONTACTS TOLD US THAT THE ROMANIANS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE UK THAT THEY AGREED TO THE FADEYEV INITIATIVE ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY WOULD BE FREE TO PURSUE THEIR OWN CONTACTS WITH THE COMMUNITY. THE BRITISH BELIEVE THAT THE OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE TAKING A SIMILAR LINE.

3. THE BRITISH ARE SATISFIED WITH THE CAUTIOUS RESPONSE THAT WAS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 20 (REF C). IN THE DISCUSSIONS LEADING UP TO THE COUNCIL DECISION, OUR SOURCES SAID, THE GERMANS PRESSED HARDEST FOR A FORTHCOMING RESPONSE TO COMECON, WHEREAS THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH WERE THE STRONGEST ADVOCATES OF CAUTION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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